

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 05020 201951Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 NSC-05 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10
L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 USIA-06
TRSE-00 EB-08 DODE-00 /081 W
-----064094 202119Z /64

R 201611Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6905
INFO USMISSION USNATO
FAA WASHDC
CINC LANT NORFOLK
USLO SACLANT
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05020

FAA PASS TO FPA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, FRG
SUBJECT: INITIAL FRG POSITION ON LTDP

REFS: (A) STATE 68765 (B) STATE 68641 (C) STATE 68642

1. THE DEFENSE ATTACHE ON MARCH 17 DELIVERED TO THE
FRG DEFENSE MINISTRY THE LETTERS TO THE DEFENSE MINISTER
AND STATE SECRETARY AS INSTRUCTED IN REFS (B) AND (C).
THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR FOLLOWED UP THIS MORNING WITH A
CALL ON GENERAL ALTENBURG, ACTING HEAD OF THE POLITICAL
MILITARY OFFICE AT THE FRG DEFENSE MINISTRY. HE REIT-
ERATED THE POINTS MADE IN THE LETTERS AND EXPRESSED US
CONCERN THAT, WITHOUT FRG SUPPORT, A VERY WORTHWHILE
EFFORT COULD COME TO NAUGHT. HE ARGUED THAT THIS WOULD
BE NOT ONLY AGAINST OUR INTERESTS BUT ALSO AGAINST THE
GERMANS'.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 05020 201951Z

2. ALTENBURG REPLIED THAT THE GERMANS WELL UNDERSTOOD
THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LONG-TERM PROGRAM. THEIR DILEMMA
IS PURELY FINANCIAL. THEY ARE ALREADY COMMITTED TO A
FIVE YEAR PROGRAM, HEAVILY INVESTED-ORIENTED, AND PRO-
CEEDING AT A GROWTH OF MORE THAN THREE PERCENT IN REAL
TERMS PER YEAR.

3. THE PROBLEM, AS DESCRIBED BY ALTENBURG, APPEARS TO BE MORE A MATTER OF PRIORITIES THAN OF RESOURCES. HE INDICATED THAT THE GERMANS WERE GOING TO COMMIT THE RESOURCES, BUT IN THOSE INSTANCES WHERE THE PRIORITIES ARE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE AGREED UNDER THE PROGRAM, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO COMMIT THEMSELVES AS FULLY TO THE PROGRAM.

4. IN RESPONSE TO THE ARGUMENT (PRESENTED REF B) THAT THE TOTAL COST OF ALL LTDP PROPOSALS WOULD BE IN THE RANGE OF CIRCA \$80 BILLION OVER 15 YEARS, ALTENBURG SAID FRG ESTIMATES PLACED THE FIGURES CONSIDERABLY HIGHER. HE SAID THAT HE EXPECTED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CLARIFY SOME OF THESE DIFFERENCES DURING THE EWG MEETING, WHICH HE WILL BE ATTENDING.

5. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR INDICATED THAT HE COULD UNDERSTAND THIS DILEMMA BUT THAT A FAILURE OF THE GERMANS TO SUPPORT THE LTDP STRONGLY AT THE UPCOMING EWG MEETING WOULD BE USED BY OTHER COUNTRIES AS AN EXCUSE TO REDUCE THEIR OWN PROGRAMS. THEREFORE, HE OBSERVED WHATEVER PROBLEMS THERE MAY BE ABOUT PRIORITY, IT WOULD SEEM TO BE IN THE FRG INTEREST NOT TO PROVIDE THIS KIND OF OPENING FOR OTHERS. ALTENBURG AGREED WITH THIS POINT, AND SAID THAT HE WOULD SPEAK IN THE MOST CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 05020 201951Z

POSITIVE POSSIBLE MANNER IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE THIS DID NOT HAPPEN. HE ADDED THAT THE FRG GENERALLY RETAINED A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE LTDP.
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN05020
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780123-0212
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780349/aaaabpbe.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1458f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 68765, 78 STATE 68641, 78 STATE 68642
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3273371
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INITIAL FRG POSITION ON LTDP
TAGS: MPOL, AFIN, ATRN, GE, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1458f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014